

# Office of English & Foreign Languages (OEFL) Annual Report 2024-2025

The Office of English & Foreign Languages (OEFL) has achieved remarkable milestones during the academic year 2024-2025, establishing itself as a transformative force in education at O.P. Jindal Global University. Under the distinguished leadership of Prof. Padmanabha Ramanujam, Professor & Dean, office of Academic Governance, launching innovative programs and expanding its global footprint while maintaining excellence in pedagogical delivery.

## **English Language Centre: Pioneering Global TESOL Education**

The English Language Centre (ELC), under the leadership of Dr. Suman Rani, Associate Professor and Former Fulbright Scholar, achieved a historic milestone with the launch of the Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program. Developed in collaboration with the CWS Centres, this flagship one-year online program (60 credits) positions JGU at the forefront of global English language teaching. With India requiring over 10 million trained English teachers, the program addresses a crucial demand through 100% digital pedagogy, offering specialised courses such as Digital Pedagogy: Multimedia & AI, Corpus Linguistics, Critical Pedagogy, and English for Specific Purposes.



In February 2025, ELC also conducted an intensive 4-week *English Conversation and Fluency* course for the Naveen Jindal Young Global Research Fellows. Sessions covered contextualised vocabulary, advanced grammar, persuasion techniques, and storytelling for effective communication, equipping international researchers to present ideas confidently on global platforms.

Throughout 2024-25, ELC advanced professional development through nine impactful guest lectures. Highlights included *Personal Branding* by Siddharth Pathak, *Drive Game-Changing Meetings* by Ms. Sisira Cuddapah, and *Inside Influence: How Communication Really Works in the Corridors of Power* by Dr. Sasi Sekhar Mallampalli. Other sessions addressed digital transformation, big data analytics, strategic CSR, and cultural adaptation in business communication. Literary and creative engagements included *Persian Poetry and Its Impact on Urdu Poetry* by Prof. Akhlaque Ahmad Ahan and a fiction writing workshop by Prof. Pankaj Challa.

Committed to student success, ELC offered 20 personalised English Language Support Sessions to enhance learners' fluency and confidence. The English Literary Society also hosted the eighth annual JGU International Literary Conference, promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and creative expression. Faculty further mentored students in creative writing, bilingual poetry, and legal language skills, reinforcing ELC's role as a hub of academic excellence, innovation, and community impact.

### **Centre for Foreign Languages: Cultural Diplomacy and Linguistic Excellence**

The Centre for Foreign Languages (CFL), led by Prof. Dr. Shruti Jain, expanded its academic and cultural programming in 2024–2025, strengthening its role as a vibrant hub for multilingual learning at JGU. Offering French, Spanish, German, Russian, and now Japanese, the Centre aligns its courses with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). With the recent increase in course credits from three to four, students completing six levels now achieve B1 competency, equipping them with globally recognized skills that enhance academic and professional opportunities.

Spanish faculty members—Mr. Mohammad Jilani, Dr. Neha Tyagi, and Ms. Deepika Teckchandani—led dynamic initiatives, hosting guest lectures by professors from the University of Granada on topics ranging from DELE exam strategies to Andalusian culture and contemporary Spanish poetry. A masterclass by Prof. María Gil Burman, Director of Instituto Cervantes, further enriched pedagogy. Mr. Jilani also continued to facilitate study-abroad programs in Granada, offering immersive experiences in Spanish business and culture.

French faculty, Dr. Shilpa Gupta and Dr. Navreeti Sharma, enhanced cultural life through visits to Alliance Française, a Read-Aloud competition, and the flagship *Journée de la Francophonie*. Dr. Sharma also published her book *Ah Bon! J'écris en Français (A1/A2)*.

German faculty, Prof. Dr. Shruti Jain and Dr. Payal Kumari, fostered intercultural dialogue through events such as *Ask-a-German*, lectures on art history and AI ethics, and the festival *Deutsch entdecken: Spiele, Spaß & Kultur*.

CFL further expanded through Russian electives offered by Dr. Tatjana Kochetkova, Japanese courses introduced by Ms. Manika Tagore, and individual lessons in diverse languages by international linguist Prof. Dr. Sergio Meira.

The Global Languages Lab, coordinated by Prof. Meira, upgraded its 30-system facility to provide self-learning resources in English, European, and Indian languages.

With new language offerings, strengthened pedagogy, and plans for an MA in Foreign Language Teaching, CFL continues to promote academic excellence, cultural exchange, and international collaboration.



**Centre for Writing Studies:**



**The Centre for Writing Studies (CWS)** is currently led by **Dr Madhura Lohokare** as **Director**, **Dr Shubhasree Bhattacharyya** as **Additional Director**, and **Prof Shachi Seth** as **Assistant Director**. It was **coordinated by Dr Shivani Kapoor** till April 2025.

The CWS undertook a significant initiative in 2025 through **the Writing Workshop for the Naveen Jindal Fellowship**. These **workshops** were conducted twice: online workshops by Dr Shivani Kapoor, Dr Jyoti, Dr Madhura Lohokare, Dr Nupur Samuel, Prof Sadia Khan and Prof Pia Bakshi in January-February, and in-person workshops by Dr Mohammad Sayeed, Prof Shachi Seth, Dr Shubhasree Bhattacharya, Prof Sadia Khan, Dr Diksha Narang, and Dr Pankaj Challa in June-July.

In the academic year 2024-25, CWS faculty taught 37 sections of **core courses** comprising 982 students across 9 schools (JSIA, JSGP, JSPC, JSAA, JSPH, JIBS, ODS, JSLH, JGBS). Through classroom teaching, writing consultations, workshops, and other events, more than **1500 JGU students** benefitted from CWS initiatives. Additionally, CWS offered **electives** on Politics and Poetics of Urban Spaces, Caste and the City, Visual Thinking and Fiction Writing.

As part of the **MA TESOL program**, CWS faculty designed and recorded a 12-week course “Introduction to Critical Reading and Research Writing”, aimed at educators to critically engage and embody research thinking.

Dr Lohokare, Dr Kapoor, and Dr Jyoti conducted a range of **writing workshops** for PhD scholars at the University of Hyderabad in November-December 2024. In this academic year, Dr Jyoti conducted workshops at Jamia Milia Islamia University and IIT-Delhi. Dr Kapoor conducted a workshop at NLU, Delhi, and Dr Lohokare at IIT-Delhi.

In the academic year 2024-25, CWS conducted **workshops in collaboration with Schools and Centres** at OPJGU. Prof Sadia Khan and Prof Vrinda Bhatia conducted ‘Let's Edit: A Writing Workshop’, with The JSBF Student Report and *Arthaniti*. Prof Shachi Seth conducted a

workshop on “Writing an Argument in the History of Economic Thought” with I.D.E.A.S. Amongst **university wide workshops**, Dr Mohammad Sayeed facilitated a workshop on ‘Formulating Research Questions’, Prof Shachi Seth and Prof Vrinda Bhatia on ‘Making Connections and Writing Literature Review’, Dr Shivani Kapoor on ‘Finding One’s Voice’ and Dr Madhura Lohokare and Prof Pia Bakshi on ‘Working with Claim and Evidence’. Dr Jyoti served as an **External Examiner** and Prof. Shachi Seth served as **Tertiary Student Advisor** for JSAA.

In the academic year, CWS organized a range of events- **CWS Listening Session** on “Exploring Sound as an Anthropological Enquiry” (organizer: Dr Shubhasree Bhattacharyya); an **open mic event** "End-Sem Bonanza" (organizer: Dr Pankaj Challa and Prof Shachi Seth); a **film screening** of ‘Manifesto’ (organizer: Dr Mohammad Sayeed); a **talk** by historian Swapna Liddle on *Shahjahanabad: Mughal Ideology in Town Planning and Architecture*, an **online talk** by Professor Satish Deshpande on *Enabling Academic Survival: “Teaching” Academic Reading and Writing in Indian Universities*, and a **Round Table** on ‘Social Justice in the Classroom’ (all organized by Dr. Nupur Samuel); a **book talk** titled *Writing Memory and the City* (organizer: Prof Pia Bakshi).

Dr Madhura Lohokare presented a paper at the **Annual BASAS Conference 2024 held at King’s College, London (UK)**. Prof Shachi Seth presented her work at the **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia 2024 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, U.S.** Dr Shubhasree Bhattacharyya presented her work at the **International Comparative Literature Association Congress 2025 held in Seoul, South Korea.**

## **Conclusion**

The academic year 2024-2025 marks a watershed moment for OEFL, characterized by groundbreaking program launches, enhanced international collaborations, and strengthened pedagogical frameworks. The successful implementation of the MA TESOL program, comprehensive Naveen Jindal Fellowship support, and vibrant cultural programming across all centers establish new benchmarks for education excellence. OEFL's continued evolution reinforces its position as a catalyst for JGU's mission of creating globally engaged, socially responsible graduates prepared for leadership in an interconnected world.